



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

WHITEFIELD RESIDENT
ARRAIGNED ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Gary C. Pratt, age 34, formerly of Whitefield, New Hampshire, was arraigned today in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire. Mr. Pratt was indicted by a federal grand jury on January 14, 2004, with being a felon in possession of a firearm, and being an armed career criminal.

Trial is scheduled to begin on March 2, 2004 before Judge Steven McAuliffe.

The defendant was ordered to be detained pending trial. Mr. Pratt faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years and a maximum of life imprisonment if convicted.

The case is being prosecuted as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently called Project Safe Neighborhoods “a revolutionary campaign against gun crime in America.”

The case was investigated by the New Hampshire State Police Special Investigations Unit with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Clyde R. W. Garrigan, Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator for New Hampshire.

Please note that a criminal indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.